

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02
ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /118 W
-----104759 280127Z /63

R 280111Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3148
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL MEXICO 10703

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, UN
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN UN

1. AT STANLEY FOUNDATION CONFERENCE FOR UN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL BUFFUM GAVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES HIS VIEWS ON OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE FOR ADVANCING PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS IN UN.

2. BUFFUM SAID MOST PROMISING IDEA ADVANCED BY PRESIDENT IN HIS SPEECH TO UN IS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER. BUT THE ONLY WAY TO SUCCEED IN PROMOTING THIS IDEA IS TO ASSOCIATE A PROMINENT AFRICAN STATE WITH IT. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT SENEGAL IS THE MOST PROMISING CANDIDATE. ITS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS HIGHLY RESPECTED THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE. BUFFUM THOUGHT THAT PROMOTING SENEGALESE HRC REPRESENTATIVE AS THE FIRST UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER COULD HELP TO DEFUSE NATURAL AFRICAN SUSPICION OF AN IDEA WHICH ORIGINATED OUTSIDE OF AFRICA.

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3. BUFFUM WAS NOT VERY ENCOURAGING WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE IDEA OF PROMOTING REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS-- THE IDEA UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OFFICIALS RECENTLY RAISED WITH JOHN BAKER IN GENEVA. BUFFUM POINTED OUT THAT EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA ALREADY HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY. ASIA IS PROBABLY TOO POLITICALLY DIVERSE FOR

THE IDEA OF NEW MACHINERY TO CATCH HOLD THERE. SO ONE WAS LEFT WITH AFRICA. AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, HE BELIEVED IT WAS BETTER TO TRY TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF A UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER, WHO WOULD IN FACT TURN OUT TO BE A DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN.

4. BUFFUM SAW NO HOPE OF MOVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BACK TO NEW YORK FROM GENEVA. ACCORDING TO BUFFUM, OTHER DELEGATIONS RESENTED THE IDEA THAT ONE HAD TO BE IN NEW YORK IN ORDER TO GAIN ADEQUATE PRESS TREATMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, HOWEVER TRUE THAT MIGHT BE. BUFFUM CAUTIONED THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO WIN IMPORTANCE FOR ANY MAJOR SOOPIWIIAN#RIGHTS FIELD IN UN IN SHORT TIME. WE NEEDED TO SET OUR GOALS AND THEN PURSUE THEM THROUGHOUT COURSE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THOMPSON

NOTE : # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DISARMAMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO10703
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770229-0999
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770611/aaaaajgn.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c169e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2010845
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS IN UN
TAGS: PARM, SHUM, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c169e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009